

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1161

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tom Tucker upon his induction into the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Tom Tucker, who was recently inducted into the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame, an honor befitting his outstanding career as a music educator; and

WHEREAS, a native of Shelbyville, Mr. Tucker began his musical career as a band member in high school before attending Middle Tennessee State University, where he majored in instrumental music education and was active in various music organizations, such as band and orchestra; and

WHEREAS, after participating as a member of Middle Tennessee State University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps, for which he served as director of the band, Tom Tucker became a lieutenant in the United States Army and served two years at Fort Bliss, Texas, as Entertainment Officer; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, following his military service, Mr. Tucker returned to Tennessee to become a teacher at McDowell Elementary School in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, unwilling to allow his musical abilities to lie dormant, Mr. Tucker soon took part-time work at Hewgley's Music Shop as a repairman before becoming the Assistant Band Director at Whitthorne Junior High School; and

WHEREAS, in the fall of 1960, Mr. Tucker was promoted to the position of Band Director at Columbia High School; he maintained and improved upon the school's proud tradition of

success, and the marching band won the Grand Championship at the Contest of Champions in 1965, 1967, and 1969, and earned the Inaugural Tennessee Governors Cup as the 1969 Tennessee State Marching Band Champion; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tucker was integral in the development and growth of precision drill for marching bands and he became recognized as one of the country's premier drill designers and traveled extensively throughout the Nation to instruct and assist bands; his talent was recognized by Camp Crescendo in Kentucky, where he worked as a summer drill designer and instructor, a post which led to a position at Middle Tennessee State University's summer band camps as an instructor and designer; and

WHEREAS, equally gifted as an orchestra conductor, Mr. Tucker led the Columbia High School concert band new levels of success, and as his bands received superior ratings twenty-two times in twenty-four appearances in the Concert and Sight-Reading Festival, traveled the country playing in a multiplicity of distinguished venues, and performed for three United States Presidents; the musicians he mentored dominated chair placements in both Mid-State and All-State bands and received numerous college scholarships for their musical abilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Tom Tucker left Columbia High School to teach again at Whitthorne Junior High School; while continuing to provide the Columbia band program with gifted young musicians, he organized the Maury County Community Band, which continues to entertain the population of Maury County; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Mr. Tucker retired from teaching in the Maury County Public School system to devote himself to Custom Flags, a business which manufactures flags for collegiate and high school marching bands; he also continued to offer his expertise to band programs as an advisor, clinician, and adjudicator; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to the improvement of instrumental music education, Tom Tucker served on many committees and advisory boards and maintained memberships with a number of professional organizations, including the Tennessee Music Educators Association, the Tennessee Bandmasters Association, the Music Educators National Conference, Phi Beta Mu, and the Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, which he served as

President; in 1985, he was inducted into Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia as a Lifetime Honorary member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tucker retired from Custom Flags in July of 2003 and continues to provide private instruction for clarinet and saxophone students; and

WHEREAS, an extremely talented and compassionate educator who worked assiduously to motivate his students to reach their full potential, Mr. Tucker uniformly served as a sterling example for his pupils in citizenship, character, responsibility, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tucker epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many professional achievements aside, Tom Tucker is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife of more than fifty years, Carolyn, and his three children, Gary, Jim, and Sharon; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Tom Tucker for his lifetime of dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Tom Tucker upon his induction into the Tennessee Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame, recognize his many musical and educational accomplishments, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.